

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/731,027

Examiner

Tuyet Vo

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 11, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date May 06, 2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


TUYET VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAIL ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 22-39 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose a method of driving a flat lamp device having three electrodes formed in the rear panel accommodated by steps of applying first, second and third voltages to first, second and third selected electrodes respectively and a fourth voltage to unselected electrode such that the distribution of the wall charge and space charge taking into account in a manner as required in claims 22. Claim 29 is also allowed due to its limitation as described in that the step of inducing a discharge between a first selected electrode and an adjacent second selected electrode among the first through fourth electrodes, and step of applying a first voltage to the second selected electrode, taking account of a wall charge distribution and a space charge distribution, which result from the discharge, the third/fourth/fifth selected electrode, similarly to the second electrode, having the second/third/fourth voltage applied there-through as required. The prior also lacks to support a fluorescent layer formed on an inner surface of at least one of the front and rear panels; and a plurality of electrode groups formed in the rear panel, each electrode group comprising at least three electrodes, wherein two of said at least three electrodes are adapted to sustain a discharge voltage, and a third is adapted to function as an igniter for decreasing a discharge voltage as required in claim 37.
3. The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least above reason.
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure. None of recorded prior arts stands alone or combination with others discloses all limitation required in claim invention.

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Remarks

Amendment filed July 11, 2006 has been entered.

Correspondence

Any comments considered necessarily by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan can be reached on (571) 272 1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

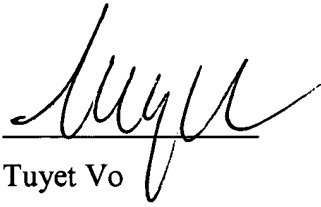
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272 2800.

Information regarding the status of an application or status information for publicizing/unpublicizing applications may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 866-217-9197.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuyet Vo', is written over a horizontal line.

Tuyet Vo

Primary Examiner

July 24, 2006